

The Leaguers Inc. Head Start /Early Head Start Male Involvement Movement





Head Start/Early Head Start Male involvement

Our mission is to improve the well-being of children by increasing active participation of responsible, and committed males in their lives.

Male Involvement



"Performance Standard Number:1304.40 (a) (4). A variety of opportunities must be created by grantee and delegate agencies for interaction with parents throughout the year".

Primary Goal of Head Start/ Early Head Start

To support families in their efforts to ensure that children served in Head Start/Early Head Start Programs have access to comprehensive services that promote healthy outcomes across all domains of development.



Evaluate Program

- **How dose your organization currently work to include fathers and father figures in the lives of the children in the program?**
- **Does your organization communicate equally with mothers and fathers concerning their children?**
- **Is your organization's staff trained in the different strengths of mothers and fathers and co-parenting roles?**
- **Does your organization purposely manage facilities and program goals to continually be father-friendly?**
- **Has your organization developed interesting, interactive, and relational activities for fathers and children?**

Planning

- Create a strategic plan with yearly goals.
- Address the entire organization from top to bottom.
- Align opportunities for father involvement through programs activity calendar.
- Rely on existing resources and keep it simple.
- Collect a data base of no-cost and low-cost resources.
- Research best practices.
- Network with successful fatherhood reps at conferences and meetings.

Father friendly Environment

- **Create enrollment forms and signup sheets specifically for fathers to add contact information and signature.**
- **Fathers should be invited as fathers not parent or families. Send info., letters, and invitation specifically address to the father.**
- **Invite fathers to parent center meetings.**
- **Get the word out early about activities a month in advance, and frequently remind fathers about the event/activities.**
- **Have the children do some of the recruiting.**



Major components



Parent involvement

- Head Start and Early Head start work in partnership with parents to build on each family's strengths and to assist them in reaching their goals. The level to which parent involvement is embraced and encouraged is unique to Head Start and Early Head Start, and is one of the reasons the programs stand out as a model for child and family support and development.
- Parent involvement begins at the time a parent chooses to enroll their child in HS/EHS. All staff realizes that Parents are the first and primary teachers of their children.
- We provide a variety of opportunities for parent involvement, so that they might become involved to the level to which they are able.

Our strategies for increasing male participation

- Establish community partnership with male involvement programs
- Recruiting fathers to work as mentors
- Utilize fathers as group facilitators for parent meets and socializations
- Including fathers in self assessments
- Understanding and appreciating fathers' vital contributions to healthy child development
- Creating an environment where fathers feel welcomed and valued
- Create activities geared towards male interests

Out comes of male involvement

- New Knowledge of self and child
- Increased Skills
- Changed attitude or Values
- Modified Behavior / ending the cycle of non-involvement
- Improved condition of self and family
- Improved community status

Major barriers in HS/EHS male involvement

- Fathers' work schedules
- Fathers not living with mothers and children
- Lack of male staff to whom fathers could relate
- Disagreements between fathers and mothers
- Lack of male present in the father's life

Including males in home based

- Home visitors include male involvement Coordinator on home visits when fathers are involved
- Male staff is always present during socialization
- Information on bonding techniques are given to male care givers.
- Interest surveys are given to both mothers and fathers to determine appropriate activities during socializations

Resources

- Early Childhood Learning & Knowledge Center (eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov)
- National fatherhood Initiative(www.fatherhood.org)
- The Magazine of the National Head Start Association.
- Fatherhood First (www.fatherhoodfirst.org)